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ABSTRACT

Board members' role in technology implementation ranges from prompting development of technology plans to gathering community support for funding technology initiatives; they need substantial knowledge to enable them to ask the right questions, absorb new information, make good decisions, set appropriate policies, and lead confidently as technology and their districts develop. This document opens with a six-step model for how boards can assist in their district's technology planning process, then offers tips and exercises to help school boards develop as teams, work with school administrators, and overcome a natural hesitancy toward change. A section is provided recommending top books and journals that board members should review regularly in order to keep up with the opportunities technology offers schools. Topical issues--such as whether computers should be placed in labs or classrooms, when to seek alternative funding sources, how to deter software piracy, why staff development needs special attention, developing safe online networking behaviors, understanding assistive technology for special education, and conducting technology-supportive public relations--are treated in a discussion-guide format backed by factual information and resources. Each topic begins with by a central question, background information, tips for success, traps to avoid, and references. Also included are a list of publications from the National School Boards Association's Technology Leadership Network and a calendar of meetings of the Institute for the Transfer of Technology to Education. (AEF)

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